

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/ Discussion Item:

FY 2008 Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) Expenditure Plan

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.670

KRS 157.655

KRS 157.660

KRS 157.665

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the FY 2008 KETS funds identified in the FY 2008 budget for KETS shared services and KETS offers of assistance?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. The Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) 2007-2012 Master Plan for Education Technology highlights the integration of instruction with educational technology to transform the way curriculum is taught and provides students with ready access to technology, both inside and outside their classrooms. The driving force behind the Master Plan is ensuring that student classroom performance and students' preparedness for higher education, military and the workforce is kept at the forefront of any educational initiative that involves technology. We have moved far past the time of implementing technology for technology's sake or as a system that does not have direct connections with teaching, learning, productivity, student work, communications, decision making and leadership.

The Plan includes four areas of emphasis:

- Anytime, Anywhere, Always On Differentiated Teaching and Learning
- Data Driven Decision Making for Teachers and Administrators
- Capacity Building and Enhancement of Staff and Resources
- Efficiency and Governance

The KETS Master Plan describes how education technology will be used to improve teaching and learning for every child in Kentucky. Its goals are to ensure equity and ease of access to technology, enhance the learning experience in the classroom for students and prepare Kentucky's children to work in the Information Age once they graduate.

The goal of the KETS Master Plan 2007-2012 is to build upon the state's past successes. The Master Plan illustrates the path that will enable all students to become capable of understanding and leveraging technology. Education technology can provide students

with the opportunity to realize their full potential. It extends instructional content beyond traditional school walls and leads students where every opportunity is open to them.

There are a variety of federal, state, local and private funding sources that can address the \$132M in basic unmet need that is identified in the 2007-2012 KETS Master Plan. The FY08 KETS Expenditure Plan addresses unmet need in the context of total cost of ownership from initial purchase, recurring costs needed to support implementation, continuous improvements in technology, and the professional capacity of teachers.

The KETS Trust Fund is one of those funding sources that are used to reduce districts' unmet need. It was established in the Finance and Administration Cabinet by KRS 157.655(1) and is administered by the School Facilities Construction Commission to provide education technology for the public school system. Funds are appropriated to the Trust Fund in each biennial budget. All expenditures from the KETS Trust Fund require the initial approval of the Kentucky Board of Education (KRS 157.655(3)); this approval is accomplished through Board approval of the KETS Expenditure Plan. Funds approved by the KBE for an offer of assistance, project or service in a previous fiscal year are not required to be approved again. Monies are drawn from the Trust Fund on a fiscal year basis.

The FY08 KETS Expenditure Plan establishes expenditure levels from the KETS Trust Fund for new FY08 KETS funds available for KETS Offers of Assistance program as well as KETS Shared Discounted Services and projects for schools. State Shared Services for schools are those aspects of the KETS system that are provided as direct discounted services to districts and schools at no local cost. Offers of Assistance are sent and equally matched by local school districts. These funds are used in accordance with the KETS Master Plan, the local district's planning and unmet need.

The KETS Expenditure Plan also displays the federal, state and local funds beyond KETS funds that can go toward the \$132M in FY08 unmet need. For example the federal e-rate rebate funds, federal enhancing education through technology funds, state coal severance funds, local district's match of KETS offers, school facility construction funds, state bonds for the (a) Kentucky Education Network (KEN), (b) Instructional Device Upgrade (IDU) and (c) next generation school information system all play a significant role in reducing all districts' unmet need.

During the Board meeting, staff will be available to discuss the details on how FY 2008 KETS funds can be distributed to the KETS Shared Services and KETS Offers of Assistance during FY 2008. Staff will also be available to discuss other funding sources beyond FY 2008 KETS funds that can be used to go toward the identified KETS unmet need.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Staff recommends approval of the FY 2008 KETS Expenditure Plan as presented. Approval will allow the Department to proceed with distribution of the FY 2008 KETS funds that have been identified for the new fiscal year.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

- Commissioner's Technology Advisory Council
- Kentucky Society of Technology in Education
- KDE Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners, and Associate Commissioners
- Student Technology Leadership Program including teachers, parents, and students
- Every district's education technology leadership (e.g., Chief Information Officers, District Technology Coordinators, Chief Education Technology Officer) staff
- Assessment Interest Group
- Administration and Finance Interest Group
- Communications Interest Group
- Teaching and Learning Interest Group
- Education Technology Vendors
- Former students, Connect Kentucky, and College Admissions Office staff

These groups/individuals are in support of the FY 2008 KETS Expenditure Plan.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

The annual KETS Shared Services and Offers of Assistance provide supplemental services and funding to each district to implement, maintain, and incrementally replace the technology required to enhance the learning opportunity for all students and provide them the opportunity to obtain required technology skills that will be valuable once they graduate.

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Interim Commissioner of Education**Date:**

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